Page 5, line 12, before "thermal" delete "a".

Page 7, line 7, before "pore" insert --a--, and before "slit" insert --a--;

line 15, after "large" delete the first occurrence of "in the vicinity";

line 17, after "reason" delete "same as" and insert --noted--;

line 20, before "plane" insert --a--;

line 24, before "sheet" insert --a--;

line 25, before "plane" insert --a--;

line 28, before "sheet" insert --a--;

line 30, before "plane" insert --a--;

line 31, before "slit" insert --a--.

Page 8, line 1, before "plane" insert --a--;

line 3, before "distance" insert --the--;

line 9, before "slit" insert --a--, and before "width" insert --the--;

line 21, before "plane" insert --a--.

Page 9, line 20, change "s" to --a--;

line 21, change "on" to --of--.

Page 10, line 1, change "effected" to --affected--;

line 2, before "damage" delete "a";

line 5, change "contributes" to --contribute--;

line 6, before "quality" delete "a";

line 16, before "gas" delete "a".

Page 21, line 7, before "3" insert --a--.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 2-17 without prejudice or disclaimer.